CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation, packaged into a sachet and administered orally after dispersing in water at therapeutic doses which comprises:

(a) alendronate microparticles coated with a polymer soluble at a gastric pH of 1 to 4, but insoluble at a salivary pH of 6 - 7.5, and uncoated alginic acid or sodium alginate or admixtures thereof in an amount therapeutically effective to prevent esophageal reflux, heartburn and esophagitis in a patient taking alendronate, where

(b) alendronate dissolves in 900 ml 0.1 N HCl at the rate of not less than 85% of within 30 minutes at the range of pH 1 - 4,

(c) the dispersion in a glass of 250 ml. water at the degree of 25°C contains no dissolved alendronate at pH 6 - 7.5 or at the most 10% w/v of alendronate dissolved in 3 minutes.

2. (Original) The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 1, comprises lubricants, diluents, flavors and sweeteners or their mixture thereof.

3. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 2, where in the diluent is selected from the group consisting of lactose and microcrystalline cellulose or admixtures thereof.

DO NOT ENTER: /T.M./